

Art Unit: 3644

claims 20-21. The remaining claims (Group I) have been amended according to the Examiner's Amendment that follows.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Adrian D. Battison on 7/7/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a) claims 1, 2, and 11-18 have been canceled;
- b) in claims 3,4,5,6,8, and 9, the phrase "apparatus according to claim 1" has been changed to -method according to claim 21--;
- c) in claims 7 and 10, lines 1, "apparatus" has been changed to -method--; and
- d) in claim 19, line 1, "apparatus according to claim 17" has been changed to -method according to claim 10--.

The following is an examiner's statement of **reasons for allowance**: the claims in this application have been allowed because the prior art, alone or in combination, does not disclose a method of raising hatchlings comprising: laying a strip of a sheet material over the floor of a barn for containing the hatchlings, providing a layer of feed